

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the paragraph beginning page 16, lines 6-18 as follows:

An order itself may be viewed as one or more order items (typically, corresponding to a particular product). In certain cases, it may be necessary to split a customer order among the multiple fulfillers, based on order items. Fig. 4B illustrates this concept. There, the order has been split into two order items, OI₁ and OI₂, in effect, two suborders. As shown, the order has been split by having one fulfiller, F₁, fulfill OI₁, while a second fulfiller, F₂, fulfills OI₂. The VP_j vector, which extends into the third dimension (z axis), is potentially employed in such instances. The VP_j vector allows tracking of what part of an order -- specifically, what order item -- was split and to which fulfiller it was split to. Fig. 4C illustrates this concept. Suppose an order consists of three order items: a 5x7 reprint of a dog photograph (product type of P₁), a 5x7 reprint of a cat photograph (also product type of P₁), and a coffee mug embossed with a bird photograph (product type of P₂). To track that fulfiller F₁ is to fulfill the order items of type P₁, OI₁ and OI₂ are entered in the VP_j vector that is indexed by F₁ and P₁. Similarly, that fulfiller F₂ is to fulfill the order items of type P₂, OI₃ is entered in the VP_j vector that is indexed by F₂ and P₂.